

TITLE OF INVENTION

Soap Scum Scraper

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Not Applicable

5 STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of Invention

10 **[0003]** This invention relates to a handheld scraping device, and more particularly, a device having a blade with a plurality of selectively shaped edges which can be gripped by a handle for scraping scum especially from showers, tubs, sinks or the like.

2. Description of the Related Art

15 **[0004]** Heretofore handheld scraping devices have been generally known in the art, and known devices are usually configured for scraping for a particular application. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,092,050 discloses a scraping device adapted to cut and remove soft material such as the pulp of a pumpkin to adequately prepare the pumpkin for carving. U.S. Patent D469,587 disclosed a
20 sweat scraper and shredder for horses. Another example of a handheld scraper is shown in U.S. Patent No. 4,495,670 which disclosed a handheld scraper in the form of a plate-like structure for removing solid and semi-solid objects from smooth surfaces. The device includes multiple straight working edges which is particularly suitable for scraping a windshield as shown in Figure 4 of the mentioned patent.
25 Other examples of known prior art suitable for particular scraping applications, are shown in the following U.S. Patents: 2,215,749 (Hog and Fish Scraper); 4,017,970

(Tile and Tub Scraper having a razor blade carried therein); 4,121,316 (Handheld Scraper particularly suitable for vehicle windows and windshields); and 4,141,111 (Ice Scraper).

5 **[0005]** Further examples of known prior art generally related to scraping devices are shown in the following U.S. Patents: 4,202,093; 4,612,707; 4,637,090; 5,263,222; 5,337,442; 5,418,998; 5,586,357; 5,809,604; 6,000,091; 6,158,493; 6,163,919; 6,311,362; D467,395; 6,516,490; 6,519,801; and D470,985.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 **[0006]** In according with various features of the present invention, a soap scum scraper for removing soap scum from the surfaces of showers, sinks, tubs, around faucets and the like is provided. It will be recognized that soap scum is a filmy residue that collects on showers, tubs and sinks from the use of soaps, cleaners and shampoos. The scraper includes an elongated handle which is mounted along one edge of a blade. The handle is designed to be gripped by the
15 user's hand to manipulate the blade for scraping purposes. In the preferred embodiment, the blade includes a perimeter having multiple edged sections particularly suitable for scraping soap scum. To this end, in the preferred embodiment, one of the edges is preferably linear or substantially, one of the edges is convex, and yet another edge is concave terminating in a point. The adjacent
20 edges are interconnected and provide geometric configurations particularly suitable for soap scum scraping on flat surfaces and around faucets or other tight areas and in corners.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

25 **[0007]** The above-mentioned features of the invention will become more clearly understood from the following detailed description read together with the drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the soap scum scraper constructed in accordance with various features of the present invention.

Figure 2 is an elevation view of the soap scum scraper shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a side elevation view of the soap scum scraper shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Figures 4 and 5 depict top and bottom elevation views, respectively, of the soap scum scraper of Figure 1.

Figure 6 depicts the soap scum scraper used against a flat or substantially flat surface for removing soap scum therefrom.

Figure 7 illustrates the use of the soap scum scraper of Figure 1 as it is applied to cleaning the soap scum and other debris from around the base of a faucet.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0008] Referring now to the Figures, a soap scum scraper constructed in accordance with various features of the present invention is illustrated at **10** in Figure 1. This soap scum scraper includes a substantially planer blade **12** having a width in the preferred embodiment between about 3½ and 5 inches. The blade is preferably fabricated from a slightly pliable yet durable plastic or nylon. It will be noted that this blade **12** includes a substantially linear edge **14** that is particularly suitable for scraping a flat planer surface such as the wall **16** of a shower as is shown in Figure 6. The device is particularly suitable for use on fiberglass or porcelain enamel showers. The edge **14** terminates at one end **18** in an adjacent and interconnected convex edge **20**. The rounded surface of the convex edge **20** is particularly suitable for scraping soap scum or other debris from curved areas having a geometry compatible with this convex edge.

[0009] At the opposite end **22** of the straight edge **14**, the blade defines a concave edge **24** that terminates in a point **26** at the juncture between the end **22** of the edge **14** and the end **28** of the concave edge **24**. This point **26** together with the curved portion of the concave edge **24** facilitates removing soap scum and/or

other debris from around the base of a faucet control knob such as the faucet control knob **30** shown in Figure 7.

5 [0010] The remaining edge **32** of the blade **12** is joined at one end **34** with the convex edge **20** as is shown in Figure 1. At its opposite end **36**, edge **32** is joined with the concave edge **24**, also shown in Figure 1.

10 [0011] An elongated handle **40** is connected to the perimeter of the blade **12** proximate the edge **32** as is shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3. This handle **40** is preferably molded plastic handle that can be adhesively bonded to the blade **12** or integrally formed therewith as is desired or necessary. The handle is suitable for being gripped by a user to facilitate manipulation of the scraper such that it can be readily applied along its selective edge to the working surface from which scum is desired to be scraped. For example, as mentioned above, the straight edge **14** of the scraper blade **12** is applied to a substantially flat surface such as the wall **16** of a shower as shown in Figure 6 by a user gripping the handle **40**. Similarly, the user can readily manipulate the scraper as is shown in Figure 7 such that the point **26** of the blade **12** can be readily applied to a tighter spot or area such the base of a faucet control knob for removing scum therefrom.

20 [0012] In one embodiment, the opposite ends of the handle **40** are beveled as is shown at **44** and **46** in Figures 4 and 5 in the embodiment shown, the handle **40** is substantially co-extensive with the length of the edge **32** to which the handle is joined.

25 [0013] In application, a user will grip the soap scum scraper by the handle **40** and select the edge which is to be applied to the working surface such as the wall of a shower or the area around the faucet or faucet control knob of a sink. The scraper will then be manipulated such that the appropriate edge or point can be applied to the working surface for removing the soap scum. After use, the scraper can be cleaned by hand or dishwasher.

[0014] While the present invention has been illustrated by description of several embodiments and while the illustrative embodiments have been described

in considerable detail, it is not the intention of the applicant to restrict or in any way limit the scope of the appended claims to such detail. Additional advantages and modifications will readily appear to those skilled in the art. The invention in its broader aspects is therefore not limited to the specific details, representative apparatus and methods, and illustrative examples shown and described.

Accordingly, departures may be made from such details without departing from the spirit or scope of applicant's general inventive concept. For example, the convex length of the edge **20**, the concave length of the edge **24**, and straight length of the edge **14** of the blade **12** are shown to extend along the entire length of the respective edges. The lengths of these portions of the edges could be foreshortened such that each edge could include distinct geometries. More specifically, the edge **14** could include a length which is straight and a length which is of a different geometry such as convex, concave or pointed.